



MAY/June 1980
Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Your support these past months has been wonderful! We couldn't have made it this far without you. The Guest Artist series has been very well received. The first 'Story 'n' Snack' night gave beginning storytellers a chance to show they are not such beginners after all! The tape library is growing too as we make more contacts with storytellers around the country.

For those of you who have just learned of us, the Seattle Storytellers' Guild welcomes you! To date we are a group of 50 storytellers, apprentices and listeners with a directing committee of five professional storytellers. We meet twice a month. Professional resident and visiting storytellers are featured at the Guest Artist Series on the second Wednesday of each month at the Good Shepherd Center, Seattle. The last Thursday of each month we hold 'Story 'n' Snack' nights. On these nights, beginning and intermediate storytellers have the chance to share stories with one another. Everyone has the chance to share a pot-luck dessert too! Other events and services we offer include:

- Access to the Guild library which has tapes of storytellers of national repute including Floating Eagle Feather, Laura Simms, Jay O'Callahan, Cynthia Orr and many more.
- The apprentice class explained in this newsletter which will be specifically geared for the aspiring storyteller.
- Classes this summer (flyers with dates and time to be sent out) for the beginning and advanced storyteller including:

Voice with Augusto Paglialunga, faculty member of the Music Department at the University of Washington.

Storytelling Classes For Children Ages 5-10 with Clare Cuddy, professional storyteller and founding member of the Guild.

Facing Stagefright, a workshop with Audrey Bennett for anyone who wants to perform.

Here are the details...

GUEST ARTIST SERIES

- May: Storyteller Cynthia Orr of Eugene, Oregon will be the Guild's guest artist on May 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Center, Seattle. Cynthia is a third generation storyteller who travels the country telling stories to all ages and groups. Remember that date! May 13. And bring a friend along to hear this marvelous teller of tales.
- June: Vi Hilbert, a Native American storyteller from the Upper Skagit and Nooksack Tribes, will be featured at the Guild's June 10 storytelling evening at the Good Shepherd Center, Seattle. You will hear stories told in both English and Lushootseed, her native tongue. Vi's recently published book Huboo: Lushootseed Literature in English is a collection of these stories.

In case you missed the March and April storytelling evenings here is the Week-end Update:

- March: Floating Eagle Feather, a professional storyteller of Mayan descent, delighted one and all with his heartwarming tales from around the world. The beauty of the evening was enhanced as Floating Eagle Feather presented his closing poems and song in sign language.
- April: Storyteller Sylvia Herom of Federal Way, Washington shared "American Folklore, Terrible Jokes and Trickster Tales" with Guild members and friends. Sylvia's presentation of Wiley and the Hairy Man held everyone spellbound. Thank you Sylvia for a hair-raising time!

Pleasant deSpain joined us too and shared the beautiful ancient Chinese folktale The Wonderful Pear Tree.

Special Note

The Guild is proud to announce that it will be sponsoring Floating Eagle Feather during his September 6-22, 1981 Seattle visit. Schools, libraries and individual community groups who wish to book a performance by Eagle Feather should write or call Clare Cuddy at: The Seattle Storytellers' Guild, 1850 N. 53rd St., Seattle, WA 98103 (206) 634-1634 (evenings).

MEMBERSHIP

Membership categories have been established in order to give everyone joining the kind of storytelling experience they desire. So please, read through the categories listed below to find the one that suits you and fill the membership form out today!

1. General Membership This category is for those people who through their work or avocation are interested in story telling and listening. Persons who join as general members are always welcome to become involved in all Guild activities. The \$5.00 yearly dues entitles the member to vote, receive the quarterly newsletter and have access to the Guild library.
2. Active Membership An active member must demonstrate professional expertise as a storyteller, meeting performance standards determined by Guild members. When hired through Guild recommendations this member agrees to give 15% of these bookings to Guild coffers. To remain an active member, one must give at least 5 (paid or unpaid) performances a year as a representative of the Guild, 1 skills workshop to fellow Guild members and contribute one 30 minute tape of their storytelling to the Guild library. \$5.00 yearly dues include voting privileges, quarterly newsletter and use of library.
3. Apprentice Membership Persons who join as apprentice members pay a yearly dues of \$20.00. Included in this membership fee is one eight week training course offered quarterly (see reverse side for class description), 10% discounts on subsequent classes & workshops, voting privileges, newsletter and access to the Guild library.
4. Institutional Membership The \$25.00 yearly dues applies to libraries, schools, museums, businesses, etc. whose many employees may benefit from the Guild newsletter and the Guild referral service. Individual employees of member institutions may purchase a General Membership for the reduced rate of \$3.00.

Membership Form

Please complete and mail with membership dues. Make all checks and money orders payable to: Seattle Storytellers' Guild
1850 N. 53rd St., Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 634-1634

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ / I would like to volunteer (check please):

Type of Membership:

_____ General (\$5.00)

_____ Active (\$5.00)

_____ Apprentice (\$20.00)

_____ Institutional (\$25.00)

_____ public relations

_____ membership development

_____ grant writing

_____ fall newsletter

_____ press releases

_____ other (please indicate)

For those of you who have been waiting for further information about the Guild's summer apprentice class, read on please!

APPRENTICE CLASS

The Seattle Storytellers' Guild has designed an apprentice class for those who want to learn to tell stories and for those who have been telling stories but want to work on technique. The class will be repeated quarterly.

The summer session will meet for 8 consecutive Tuesday evenings, beginning June 2nd from 7-10 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Center, Seattle. The three instructors will be Merna Hecht, storyteller and librarian at the Little School in Bellevue; Clare Cuddy, storyteller and teacher; and Bob Polishuk, storyteller and Children Services Coordinator for the King County Library System. A brief synopsis of what will be covered in class follows:

June 2, 9 Merna A presentation of world mythologies and folklore. Students will choose one story to be learned during course.

June 16, 23 Clare Speech, drama and movement exercises introduced. Students will learn fundamentals of story preparation.

June 30, July 7 Bob The practical art; how a story works and doesn't work. Students will tell their stories and be critiqued in a supportive environment.

July 14, 21 Story swaps with Merna, Clare, Bob and class members.

The fee for the 8 week course is \$20.00. Apprentice Membership dues cover the course fee. Persons who join(ed) the Guild under the General Membership category are welcome to enroll in the apprentice class for an additional \$15.00. The class is filling up quickly so be sure to mail your application in early!

* Please give Clare a ring at 634-1634(evenings) if you have any questions.

Please fill out and mail early in order to secure your place in the Summer Apprentice Class.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

All checks and money orders payable to: Seattle Storytellers' Guild
1850 N. 53rd St.
Seattle, WA 98103
634-1634 (evenings)

LOCAL STORYTELLING EVENTS

May 6, 11/ Pleasant deSpain will perform on the 6th at the Evergreen and Elk Plain Elementary Schools in Spanaway and on the 11th at the Grass Lake Elementary School in Kent. Program sponsor is the Washington State Cultural Enrichment Program.

May 8/ Performing artist Alice Quaitance will tell stories from her mother's life as part of the University YWCA Women's Cultural Center celebration theme 'My Mother Herself.' 8 p.m.

May 9, 10/ Cynthia Orr at Tacoma City College on Saturday, May 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and on Sunday, May 10th, Cynthia will perform at the Gnu Deli in Tacoma at 7:30 p.m.

May 13/ Seattle Storytellers' Guild presents Cynthia Orr of Eugene, Oregon at the Good Shepherds Center, 4649 Sunnyside N., 7:30 p.m. Public is invited to attend. Members \$1.00 Non-members \$2.00

May 15/ Guild members interested in attending May 15th taping of Pleasant deSpain's TV show are asked to call Pleasant prior to this date at 324-2048.

May 15-16/ Fourth Annual Storytelling Workshop at the University of Washington. John Langstaff, noted folklorist and concert artist, will be keynote speaker. For further information please contact Barbara Tolliver, 543-1794 or 543-6782.

May 23-25/ Tenth Annual Folklife Festival at the Seattle Center. Sunday afternoon the 24th from 2-4 p.m. in Mercer Forum Rm. #7, Clare Cuddy, Elana Freeland, Merna Hecht, David Jones and Bob Polishuk will represent the Guild in performance. On Monday the 25th, Clare will present a special storytelling program from 1:30-2:00 p.m. in the Colliseum Court. Volunteers are needed for the Guild's display table at the festival. Duties will include answering questions, selling materials and most importantly having a great time at the largest, most extensive folk art festival in the country.

May 28/ Seattle Storytellers' Guild 'Story 'n' Snack' night, 7:30 p.m. at Clare's (1850 N. 53rd St. (at Meridan) in Wallingford). Beginning and intermediate storytellers will have the chance to share their stories with others in a relaxed atmosphere. Everyone will have the chance to share a pot-luck dessert too!

May 30/ Dr. Spencer Shaw will present a Family Storytelling Program for ages 5 and up at the University of Washington Bookstore, 2 p.m.

June 2/ Seattle Storytellers' Guild Summer Apprentice Class begins. Class will meet for 8 consecutive Tuesdays from 7-10 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Center. Course Fee \$20.00. Class details on page 4 of this newsletter.

June 10/ Seattle Storytellers' Guild presents Vi Hilbert, a Native American storyteller from the Upper Skagit and Nooksack Tribes. Public is invited to attend. Members \$1.00 Non-members \$2.00. 7:30 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Center, Seattle

June 13/ Family Storytelling Program with Dr. Spencer Shaw for ages 5 and up at the University of Washington Bookstore. 2 p.m.

REGIONAL EVENTSArt of Storytelling Symposium Aug. 22-24

The American Storytelling Resource Center, ASRC, located in Santa Cruz, California is sponsoring 'The Art of Storytelling Symposium' August 22-24 in Pacific Grove, California. Guest storytellers will include Mary Carter Smith, Laura Simms and many more. Pre-registration by July 1st advised. Please write ASRC, 1471 Chanticleer Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062 or call (408) 475-8939 for further information about the center and summer symposium. (Persons from Seattle interested in sharing transportation to the summer symposium should call Clare.

Special Note

Storytellers and storytelling groups in the Northwest are encouraged to send the Guild announcements about events in your area.

NATIONAL

The National Association For The Preservation And Perpetuation Of Storytelling, NAPPS, has been a source of inspiration for storytellers everywhere since its inception eight years ago in Jonesboro, Tennessee. The NAPPS newsletter is an excellent resource for storytelling events all around the U.S.A. Each year NAPPS sponsors a National Conference On Storytelling. This years conference will be held June 5-7 near Jonesborough. And each fall NAPPS sponsors a Storytelling Festival as well. That's three days of non-stop storytelling! For membership, newsletter and conference information please write: NAPPS, P.O. Box 112, Jonesborough, TN 37659 or call (615) 753-2172.

Thank you everyone for your interest in the Guild. This newsletter is the second in a series of four to be produced in 1981. It is the last free newsletter for non-members so if you are thinking about joining, please do so today!

In addition to membership dues, volunteer work on Guild projects is needed. These projects include the May 23-25 Folklife Festival, and on going business matters such as the newsletter, membership development, fund raising, grant writing and public relations. Persons with or without experience in these business areas are encouraged to volunteer. Please write or call The Seattle Storytellers' Guild, 1850 N. 53rd St., Seattle, WA 98103 (206) 634-1634 for further information.

Now that you know the facts it's time to get down to the real business of storytelling, the story! A Penobscott Indian tale told to us by Floating Eagle Feather follows. Relax and enjoy!

Sincerely,

Clare Cuddy
Clare Cuddy
Director

Audrey Bennett
Audrey Bennett
Newsletter Editor

We are happy to share with you the following Penobscott Indian tale told to Guild members and friends by Floating Eagle Feather at the March storytelling evening.

WHY THE BABY SAYS "GOO GOO"

There was once a great Penobscott Indian chief who had lived through everything there was to live through. And this chief was so full of pride that he was going around saying, "I am the greatest chief that has ever lived." And most of the people agreed.

One day the chief was saying this and an old woman said, "Ah, no you're not. There is a far greater chief than you."

The chief said, "What do you mean?! I am the greatest chief. No one has done as much as I have!"

The old woman said, "Come to my tepee tomorrow at noon and you will meet the great chief."

So he said, "Very well. I will see you tomorrow at noon." That night the chief slept very soundly. He wanted to get a lot of good strength-rest. In the morning he got dressed in the war paint and the medicine bundles, the feathers and the bells, to be ready for any kind of fight whether it be a fight of beauty or a fight of honors.

The chief came to the old Penobscott woman's tepee and let her know that he was there. "Come in, come in," she said. He walked inside and all that he saw was a baby sitting on the ground and the old woman.

"Where is the great chief of which you spoke?" he said. "Is he not here yet? Is she not here yet?"

And the old woman said, "Ah, this is the great chief of which I spoke."

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! THIS IS JUST A BABY!!!"

"AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!!" The baby started to cry.

The chief said, "Wait, wait, wait. Ah, here, here..." And he started to play with the medicine bundle in front of the baby's face and then took off the feather's and brushed them on the baby's face and then started to take the bells off and ring them in front of the baby until the baby's crying subsided very slowly. And the chief was very happy that the baby was no longer crying.

The old woman said, "You see, the chief of every tepee is the baby. The baby is the greatest chief that exists because everyone loves, honors, respects and obeys implicitly everything that the baby says."

And so the chief said, "You are indeed right. The baby is a greater chief than I." And so the chief put on the feathers and the medicine bundles and the bells again and walked out. And as he walked out the baby called out, "Goo Goo."

And so ever since then babies give this as their victory cry to show that they are indeed the chief of the house.